

# Excerpts From the Bush News Conference on Foreign and Domestic Issues

Following are excerpts from President Bush's news conference in Washington yesterday as supplied by Reuters:

The Washington Post  
The New York Times B-14  
The Washington Times  
The Wall Street Journal  
The Christian Science Monitor  
New York Daily News  
USA Today  
The Chicago Tribune

Date 9 MAY 1991

## OPENING STATEMENT

It is with a great sense of pride — genuine pride in his accomplishments — and long years of dedicated service to his country, that I announce that Bill Webster has informed me of his intention to retire as the Director of Central Intelligence. Bill will be leaving Federal service after 26 years on the Federal bench as Director of the F.B.I. and as Director of the C.I.A. And as a former D.C.I., I know the complex organizations and inter-relationships that comprise our intelligence community.

Bill has brought an integrity, an effectiveness, and an insight to the many intelligence-gathering operations of this nation. He has done a superb job. A strong nation requires a strong intelligence organization, and Bill Webster has directed our efforts according to the guidelines that I set down at the beginning of this Administration, that the C.I.A. would have the single mission of providing intelligence to the policy makers of this government. And he's performed admirably. And that is a very important point. Intelligence not trying to shape policy.

There are those who think C.I.A. should have a different role, but I believe Bill Webster has demonstrated the value of an intelligence organization that is professionally directed and purposely committed. It is invaluable in defending the security of America.

I noticed what one of our coalition partners said — the dependence on United States intelligence in the recent war. In so many ways he has performed with great distinction and the best — the best — in the sense of service to his country. And I hate to see him go. This was his choice, but I offer him my thanks, and I offer him the thanks of a very grateful nation, as he finishes this distinguished career in government and considers other avenues. And he can say a few words now, and then I'll be glad to take just a few questions. Director, we're going to miss you, pal, but you're not leaving right now. We're not going to let him go.

WILLIAM H. WEBSTER: Thank you, Mr. President. I have many mixed feelings about this morning. There's never an easy time to go, especially when you are working for an organization that you believe in and for people that you believe in. It's been an extraordinary experience to have worked with you, Mr. President. I think I'm leaving you — I know I'm leaving you — a healthy organization, one that has had, during the last four years, I think, a good track record for its accountability, insofar as it's possible to be accountable. We have positioned ourselves for the challenges of the 90's, which are different than the challenges of the 80's, and I'm very proud of the performance that the entire community rendered during the Persian Gulf. ... You hate to leave, but something tells you that it's a good time to leave. I still have my roots in the law, and this gives me an opportunity to pursue other avenues in the private sector. So there you are.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Successor to Webster

Q. Did this come as a surprise? Do you have a successor in mind?

A. We haven't talked successor — haven't got anyone in mind, but it did come as a surprise when Bill brought this up to me. He told me this several days ago. And it was his decision. I told him that what I've said — essentially said here publicly — and he called in yesterday evening and said he thought we ought to go with this announcement.